



Senate Legislative Operations and Elections Committee

**Testimony from Fred Wagar, VFW Department of Nevada Southern State Legislative Chair
and DAV Department of Nevada Benefits Protection Team (Legislative) Lead**

Testimony in Support of SJR1

April 8, 2025

Chair Ohrenschall, Vice Chair Daly and members of the Senate Legislative Operations and Elections Committee, I am Fred Wagar (F.R.E.D. W.A.G.A.R) and I represent the Nevada Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Department of Disabled American Veterans.

I would like to thank Senator Krasner for bringing Senate Joint Resolution 1 forward.

As my wife did throughout my military career, these individuals make significant sacrifices, enduring long periods of separation, relocating frequently, and managing households single-handedly, all while their loved ones often serve in perilous and demanding conditions.

Upon the passing of a military veteran, their devoted spouses face financial insecurity due to limitations on the benefits they receive. Currently, military spouses only receive 55 percent of the veteran's benefits and only if the veteran signed up for the Survivor Benefits Plan at the time of their military retirement.

Awarding military spouses 100% of military veterans' benefits upon the veterans' death is a recognition of the spouses' invaluable contributions and sacrifices. It would ensure they can continue to live with dignity and security. Such a policy would provide assurance that the nation stands by them in their time of loss, honoring their commitment and resilience.

It is both a moral and practical imperative to ensure that military spouses receive 100% of military veterans' benefits upon the veterans' death. The nation's gratitude should extend beyond the veteran and encompass the family that supports them, ensuring their well-being in every phase of life.

In passing SJR1, Nevada would be urging Congress to enact legislation allowing the surviving spouse of a veteran to receive the military retirement pay of the veteran after the veteran's death.

Thank you,

Fred Wagar
Sergeant First Class
US Army Retired